

Administration on Aging

(dollars in millions)

	1997 Actual	1998 Enacted	1999 Request	Request +/-Enacted
Budget Authority	\$836	\$871	\$871	\$0
Program Level	837	872	873	+1
Outlays	834	857	860	+3
 FTE	 131	 140	 142	 +2

Summary

The FY 1999 budget for the Administration on Aging (AoA) provides \$871 million for programs aimed at improving older Americans' quality of life, primarily by helping senior citizens to remain independent and productive.

AoA serves older persons and their families through the administration of the Older Americans Act and aging-related applied research and educational projects. As the focal point in the Federal Government for serving older persons, AoA works to advance the dignity and independence of the Nation's elderly. By the year 2030, the number of people aged 60 and older will increase to 89 million, while those 85 and older will increase to almost 9 million.

Supportive Services and Centers

Supportive services represent the cornerstone of the comprehensive and coordinated system of home and community-based services that address the needs of the elderly. Within the FY 1999

budget, \$300 million is included to provide funding for a network of 57 State units on aging, 655 Area Agencies on Aging, 6,400 senior centers, and more than 27,000 service providers throughout the country. On an annual basis, supportive services and centers provide homemaker services to over 167,000 elderly, chore services to 66,000, case management services to 501,000 adult day care to 46,000, and personal care to 97,000. Of these clients, 39 percent were at or below the poverty level.

Nutrition Services

For FY 1999, \$486 million is requested for nutrition services. Over 240 million meals are provided annually through the Aging Network; about half of meal recipients are low-income elders. Recipients of home-delivered meals are among the most vulnerable elderly in the community, with 73 percent considered to be frail and disabled and 53 percent being low-income. Over the past 15 years, the number of home-delivered meals increased by 227 percent, reflecting not only a growing elderly population but

also an elderly population composed of increasingly older and more dependent individuals. Moreover, the volunteers who deliver the meals often serve as informal gatekeepers, assessing whether recipients have other needs and linking them to additional services.

Congregate nutrition services provide a cooked, nutritious meal to seniors in a group setting. Participation in a group setting reduces isolation and encourages continued physical and mental functioning. The Older Americans Act directs that priority be given to those who are in greatest economic and social need, with particular attention to low-income, minority older persons.

Ombudsman/Prevention of Elder Abuse

The FY 1999 budget includes \$9.2 million for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program and the Prevention of Elder Abuse program. These programs work together to protect the rights of vulnerable older Americans. The Ombudsman Program provides critical protections for 1.5 million nursing home residents and plays a critical role in identifying and reporting costly fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The Prevention of Elder Abuse program helps to ensure that older people are safe and secure within their homes and communities.

Alzheimers Initiative

It is proposed that the administrative responsibility for the Alzheimers Disease Demonstration Grants to States (ADDGS) program be transferred to AoA from HRSA. AoA will continue to build upon the expertise gained from ADDGS so far, and will strive to continue to create innovative approaches for linking these patients and

caregivers with health care providers, including physicians, community organizations, and private industry. The requested funding level of \$6 million will allow on-going experimentation with and refinement of innovative program models which will be implemented in States and communities to more effectively serve the rapidly growing number of Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers.

Other AoA Programs

The FY 1999 budget request also provides \$9.8 million for in-home services for the elderly. The rapid growth of the age 85 and over population brings new demands for care because of limited mobility, increasing disability, and the higher risk of poverty. By supporting the provision of services to frail older individuals, the program increases the access of vulnerable older individuals to needed assistance and helps them avoid institutionalization.

Other AoA programs include: \$18.5 million for Grants to Native Americans; \$16 million for Preventive Health Services; and \$10 million for aging Training, Research, and Discretionary activities.